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COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE DIVISION OF ~~FAMILY SERVICES~~
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ~~SOCIAL SERVICES~~
AND
THE DIVISION OF ~~VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION~~
OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY EDUCATION
RELATING TO TITLE IV A, TITLE IV B, TITLE XIX,
AND THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973,
AS AMENDED

179-6
C-1-19

This Agreement is entered into this 29th day of May, 1979,
by and between the Missouri Division of Family Services of the Department
of Social Services and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the
State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Parties to the Agreement

This document constitutes a cooperative agreement between the
Missouri Division of Family Services and the Missouri Division of
Vocational Rehabilitation, State Department of Elementary and
Secondary Education; or the Bureau for the Blind of the Division
of Family Services, in cases of visual impairment as outlined in
paragraph 1.3C).

1.2 Purpose

Cooperative relationships between these agencies are essential
to insure maximum utilization of the services which each agency
can provide to handicapped persons eligible for such services.
Within this framework, the Agreement provides a plan:

1. for the coordination of services;

2. for using the resources of the cooperating agencies to the best advantage;
3. to facilitate the referral of potentially eligible persons between the agencies;
4. to provide all public assistance recipients with rehabilitation potential the opportunity for evaluation and services designed to restore them to substantial gainful activity and to remove them from the assistance roles.

1.3 Basic Eligibility Requirements

- A. The basic eligibility requirements for Public Assistance of the Missouri Division of Family Services are published in brochure form. Copies of the proper brochure will be furnished to the Missouri Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Bureau for the Blind, including copies of subsequent revisions of these brochures.
- B. To be eligible for vocational rehabilitation services, an applicant must meet the following requirements:
 1. Have a mental and/or physical impairment which causes limitations;
 2. Have a substantial handicap to employment caused by the limitations resulting from the impairment; and
 3. There must be a reasonable expectation that with the provision of vocational rehabilitation services, the applicant can be rendered fit to engage in a gainful occupation (including homemaker and/or unpaid family worker).

- (a) Eligibility for vocational rehabilitation services is determined through regular diagnostic procedures consisting of a counselor's evaluation of case information, medical reports, psychological evaluations, and other diagnostic procedures which normally do not extend over a prolonged period of time.
 - (b) When it is not possible to determine the rehabilitation potential of a handicapped person for the purpose of determining eligibility (Item B-3 (a) above) for vocational rehabilitation services through the use of regular diagnostic procedures, an extended period of evaluation, not to exceed 18 consecutive months, may be provided.
4. There is no minimum or maximum age test which must be met before an individual can be determined eligible for services; however, it must be kept in mind that the ultimate objective of such services is to render the individual fit to engage in gainful employment. Individuals under the normal working age may qualify for services if they will attain working age by the time the rehabilitation plan is completed, provided there is continuity in the services to be rendered. Individuals above the normal working age may be provided services only when it is expected that the individual can be returned to or retain employment.

- C. To be eligible for vocational rehabilitation services through the Bureau for the Blind, disability as stipulated in Paragraph B-1. above means a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with best correction; or a restriction in visual fields to the extent that the widest diameter of the visual field does not extend beyond an angular distance of 20°; or a progressive eye disease which may lead to blindness such as cataract, glaucoma, retinitis pigmentosa, optic atrophy, etc.; or any combination of the above diagnoses.

Note: An individual who seems to meet the above visual eligibility requirements should be referred to the Bureau for the Blind even though the person may have other disabilities in addition to the visual disability.

- D. The decision as to whether a handicapped individual is eligible for services must be made by the agency providing the services. Caution must be exercised in screening applicants for referral to the cooperating agency to insure that individuals will not be denied services for which they may be eligible.
- E. All services provided by Family Services and Vocational Rehabilitation under this Agreement shall be provided in compliance with Title VI of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, found USC 2000d, which reads, "No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin,

be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

- F. All programs and services provided by Family Services and Vocational Rehabilitation under this Agreement shall be provided in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which insures that handicapped persons are not discriminated against either as employees or as patients of any vendor participating in Family Services or Vocational Rehabilitation Programs.

1.4 Legal Basis

A. Missouri Division of Family Services

1. The Revised Statutes of Missouri, 1977, Chapter 207, outlines the duties and powers of the Missouri Division of Family Services. Chapter 208 of the same laws explains the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Relief (GR) programs.
2. Section 207.020 (Revised Statutes, 1977) authorizes the Missouri Division of Family Services to "initiate or cooperate with other agencies in developing measures for the prevention of dependency and the rehabilitation of needy persons".
3. Chapter 209 (Revised Statutes, 1977) provides that the Missouri Division of Family Services will aid blind persons.

Section 209.010 of this law provides that the Missouri Division of Family Services shall adopt measures for the prevention and cure of blindness and to help secure employment for blind persons.

B. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation or Bureau for the Blind

1. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-112), as amended, provides for the rehabilitation of handicapped individuals. Section 1361.20 of Rules and Regulations pertaining to this Act provides for cooperation with other agencies to insure that the maximum objectives of the Rehabilitation Act will be achieved.
2. Section 9.8 of the State Plans of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Bureau for the Blind provide for the establishment and maintenance of cooperative working relationships with the Missouri Division of Family Services.
3. Section 9.8 of the State Plans of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Bureau for the Blind provide for reciprocal referral services.

1.5 Role of Each Agency

- A. In addition to the basic eligibility requirements, the Missouri Division of Family Services is very interested in any planning for vocational rehabilitation purposes which will enable a person or family receiving public assistance to become totally or partially self-supporting. In order to give full encouragement

to such planning - which will be on a cooperative basis between the client, his family, the rehabilitation counselor and the caseworker - the following special instructions will apply whenever a public assistance recipient or family is accepted for Vocational Rehabilitation:

1. When a person is absent from the home as a result of a plan for receiving rehabilitation services as the result of a joint plan with VR, he will not be considered as a member of the household so long as the plan remains in effect. The household's eligibility for public assistance would be considered without regard to the person in VR training away from home. And the person absent from home in VR training would have his eligibility for public assistance considered without regard to the household at home.
2. Once eligibility has been established for an assistance grant to a person undergoing training away from home, the grant will be continued so long as necessary throughout the course of services even though the family back home may become ineligible to continue receiving their grant. In addition, the requirement of physical examinations to establish continuing disability or unemployability will be waived during the course of training.
3. The regular budgeting procedures and standards will be applied to the person who will receive public assistance while undergoing rehabilitation services.

4. Any supplementary or additional assistance which may be given by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, by the Bureau for the Blind, or by any other agency or organization for rehabilitation purposes will not be considered as income in preparing the public assistance budget (whether the trainee is at home or away from home). The Vocational Rehabilitation counselor or the counselor for the Bureau for the Blind will take into consideration the amount of the public assistance grant in determining the amount of financial aid given by the rehabilitation agency to meet the extra costs of maintenance, training, etc.
5. Persons whose vocational rehabilitation plan is approved before they have been approved for public assistance will have their eligibility for public assistance determined the same as any other claimant for public assistance and the provisions stated in Items 1-4 will be applied (except that a physical examination to determine initial eligibility on the factor of disability or unemployability will be required). In such cases, the caseworker will notify the counselor of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation or Bureau for the Blind, in writing, of the date the claimant will receive his first public assistance payment and the amount of the payment so that the rehabilitation counselor can adjust the vocational rehabilitation maintenance payment accordingly.

6. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation or the Bureau for the Blind is responsible for meeting financial requirements of the person undergoing rehabilitation services which are related to its program and which are not provided by the client, family, interested individuals or groups, other agencies, public assistance programs, etc. Funds for services to family members, including maintenance, may be available in certain circumstances when it is necessary to the adjustment or rehabilitation of the handicapped individual.

B. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation or the Bureau for the Blind is the public agency responsible for (1) obtaining adequate diagnosis and evaluation to determine eligibility for vocational rehabilitation services; (2) developing with each client individual vocational rehabilitation services plans; and (3) providing vocational rehabilitation services necessary for preparing disabled individuals to engage in gainful occupations. Vocational Rehabilitation services available include the following:

1. Medical, psychiatric, and psychological examinations to aid in determining eligibility, including transportation and subsistence necessary to obtain required diagnostic services;
2. vocational diagnosis;